I CLAIM:

1. A tubing/casing annulus plug additive comprising a dry mixture of a water soluble crosslinkable polymer, a crosslinking agent, and a reinforcing material selected from among fibers and comminuted plant materials.

2. The additive of claim 1 wherein the polymer is an a carboxylate-containing polymer and the crosslinking agent is a chromic carboxylate complex.

3. The additive of claim 2 wherein the reinforcing material comprises hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers.

4. The additive of claim 3 wherein the hydrophobic fibers comprise at least one selected from the group of hydrophobic fibers consisting essentially of nylon, rayon, and hydrocarbon fibers, and wherein the hydrophilic fibers comprise at least one selected from the group of hydrophilic fibers consisting essentially of glass, cellulose, carbon, silicon, graphite, calcined petroleum coke, and cotton fibers.

5. The additive of claim 2 wherein the reinforcing material comprises comminuted plant material.

6. The additive of claim 5 wherein the reinforcing material comprises at least one comminuted material selected from the group of comminuted plant materials consisting essentially of nut and seed shells or hulls of almond, brazil, cocoa bean, coconut, cotton, flax, grass, linseed, maize, millet, oat, peach, peanut, rice, rye, soybean, sunflower, walnut, and wheat; rice tips; rice straw; rice bran; crude pectate pulp; peat moss fibers; flax; cotton; cotton linters; wool; sugar cane; paper; bagasse; bamboo; corn stalks; sawdust; wood; bark; straw; cork; dehydrated vegetable matter; whole ground corn cobs; corn cob light density pith core; corn cob ground woody ring portion; corn cob chaff portion; cotton seed stems; flax stems; wheat stems; sunflower seed stems; soybean stems; maize stems; rye grass stems; millet stems; and mixtures thereof.

7. The additive of claim 2 wherein the polymer is a partially hydrolyzed polyacrylamide.

8. The additive of claim 7 wherein the reinforcing material is a comminuted material selected from among comminuted materials derived from peanuts, wood, paper any portion of rice seed or plant, any portion of corn cobs, and mixtures thereof.

9. The additive of claim 8 wherein the additive further includes cellophane, and wherein the reinforcing material is a comminuted material selected from among mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and peanut hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction, and wood fiber or almond hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob fraction; and mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob fraction and at least one of wood fiber, nut shells, and paper.

10. The additive of claim 9 wherein the reinforcing material comprises comminuted mixture of rice fraction, corn cob pith and chaff, cedar fiber, nut shells, and paper.

11. A method of forming a tubing/casing annulus plug fluid comprising:

(a) providing a tubing/casing annulus plug additive comprising a dry mixture of water soluble crosslinkable polymer, a crosslinking agent, and a reinforcing material selected from among fibers and comminuted plant materials; and

(b) contacting the tubing/casing annulus plug additive with water or an aqueous solution to form the tubing/casing annulus plug fluid.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the polymer is a partially hydrolyzed polyacrylamide, the crosslinking agent is a chromic carboxylate complex, wherein the additive further includes cellophane, and wherein the reinforcing material is a comminuted material selected from among mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and peanut hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction, and wood fiber or almond hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob fraction; and mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob fraction and at least one of wood fiber, nut shells, and paper.

13. The additive of claim 12 wherein the reinforcing material comprises comminuted mixture of rice fraction,

corn cob pith and chaff, cedar fiber, nut shells, and paper.

14. A method for plugging a tubing/casing annulus formed between a casing and a tube internal to the casing in a wellbore in fluid communication with a subterranean hydrocarbon-bearing formation, the method comprising:

(a) providing a tubing/casing annulus plug additive comprising a dry mixture of water soluble crosslinkable polymer, a crosslinking agent, and a reinforcing material selected from among fibers and comminuted plant materials;

(b) contacting the tubing/casing annulus plug additive with water or an aqueous solution to for a tubing/casing annulus plug fluid;

(c) injecting the tubing/casing annulus plug fluid into the annulus; and

(d) crosslinking said fluid to substantial completion in said annulus to substantially plug said annulus.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the polymer is an a carboxylate-containing polymer and the crosslinking agent is a chromic carboxylate complex.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the reinforcing material comprises hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the hydrophobic fibers comprise at least one selected from the group of hydrophobic fibers consisting essentially of nylon, rayon, and hydrocarbon fibers, and wherein the hydrophilic fibers comprise at least one selected from the group of hydrophilic fibers consisting essentially of glass, cellulose, carbon, silicon, graphite, calcined petroleum coke, and cotton fibers.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the reinforcing material comprises comminuted plant material.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the reinforcing material comprises at least one comminuted material selected from the group of comminuted plant materials consisting essentially of nut and seed shells or hulls of almond, brazil, cocoa bean, coconut, cotton, flax, grass, linseed, maize, millet, oat, peach, peanut, rice, rye, soybean, sunflower, walnut, and wheat; rice tips; rice straw; rice bran; crude pectate pulp; peat moss fibers;

flax; cotton; cotton linters; wool; sugar cane; paper; bagasse; bamboo; corn stalks; sawdust; wood; bark; straw; cork; dehydrated vegetable matter; whole ground corn cobs; corn cob light density pith core; corn cob ground woody ring portion; corn cob chaff portion; cotton seed stems; flax stems; wheat stems; sunflower seed stems; soybean stems; maize stems; rye grass stems; millet stems; and mixtures thereof.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein the polymer is a partially hydrolyzed polyacrylamide.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the reinforcing material is a comminuted material selected from among comminuted materials derived from peanuts, wood, paper any portion of rice seed or plant, any portion of corn cobs, and mixtures thereof.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the additive further includes cellophane, and wherein the reinforcing material is a comminuted material selected from among mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and peanut hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction, and wood fiber or almond hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob

fraction; and mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob fraction and at least one of wood fiber, nut shells, and paper.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the reinforcing material comprises comminuted mixture of rice fraction, corn cob pith and chaff, cedar fiber, nut shells, and paper.

24. A method for plugging a tubing/casing annulus formed between a casing and a tube internal to the casing in a wellbore in fluid communication with a subterranean hydrocarbon-bearing formation, the method comprising:

(a) providing a tubing/casing annulus plug additive comprising an aqueous solution of water soluble crosslinkable polymer, a crosslinking agent, and a reinforcing material selected from among fibers and comminuted plant materials;

(b) injecting the tubing/casing annulus plug fluid into the annulus; and

(c) crosslinking said fluid to substantial completion in said annulus to substantially plug said annulus.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the polymer is an a carboxylate-containing polymer and the crosslinking agent is a chromic carboxylate complex.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the reinforcing material comprises hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the hydrophobic fibers comprise at least one selected from the group of hydrophobic fibers consisting essentially of nylon, rayon, and hydrocarbon fibers, and wherein the hydrophilic fibers comprise at least one selected from the group of hydrophilic fibers consisting essentially of glass, cellulose, carbon, silicon, graphite, calcined petroleum coke, and cotton fibers.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein the reinforcing material comprises comminuted plant material.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the reinforcing material comprises at least one comminuted material selected from the group of comminuted plant materials consisting essentially of nut and seed shells or hulls of almond, brazil, cocoa bean, coconut, cotton, flax, grass,

linseed, maize, millet, oat, peach, peanut, rice, rye, soybean, sunflower, walnut, and wheat; rice tips; rice straw; rice bran; crude pectate pulp; peat moss fibers; flax; cotton; cotton linters; wool; sugar cane; paper; bagasse; bamboo; corn stalks; sawdust; wood; bark; straw; cork; dehydrated vegetable matter; whole ground corn cobs; corn cob light density pith core; corn cob ground woody ring portion; corn cob chaff portion; cotton seed stems; flax stems; wheat stems; sunflower seed stems; soybean stems; maize stems; rye grass stems; millet stems; and mixtures thereof.

30. The method of claim 25 wherein the polymer is a partially hydrolyzed polyacrylamide.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the reinforcing material is a comminuted material selected from among comminuted materials derived from peanuts, wood, paper any portion of rice seed or plant, any portion of corn cobs, and mixtures thereof.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the additive further includes cellophane, and wherein the reinforcing material is a comminuted material selected from among mixtures of

comminuted rice fraction and peanut hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction, and wood fiber or almond hulls; mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob fraction; and mixtures of comminuted rice fraction and corn cob fraction and at least one of wood fiber, nut shells, and paper.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the reinforcing material comprises comminuted mixture of rice fraction, corn cob pith and chaff, cedar fiber, nut shells, and paper.